

By the Committee on Commerce and Tourism; and Senator Bradley

577-03173-21

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to a zoological and aquarium grant  
3 program; creating s. 288.1259, F.S.; authorizing the  
4 Department of Economic Opportunity to establish a  
5 grant program for the support of zoos and aquariums  
6 located within the state; providing eligibility  
7 requirements; authorizing the use of grant funds for  
8 certain purposes; requiring the department to adopt  
9 rules; providing that the department has final grant  
10 approval authority; providing an effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
14 Section 1. Section 288.1259, Florida Statutes, is created  
15 to read:

16 288.1259 Zoological and aquarium grant program.-

17 (1) The department is authorized to establish a grant  
18 program for the support of zoos and aquariums located within the  
19 state. To be eligible for grant funding under this section, the  
20 facility must be accredited by the Association of Zoos and  
21 Aquariums or the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums.  
22 Grant funds awarded to a facility may be used for capital  
23 expenditures, operational support, and educational,  
24 conservation, and research initiatives.

25 (2) The department shall adopt rules establishing grant  
26 application requirements, a timeline for submission of grant  
27 applications, a timeline for announcement of awards, and any  
28 procedures necessary for the prudent administration of the grant  
29 program.

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30           (3) The department has final approval authority for grants  
31 made under this section.

32           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.